

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03100 181514Z

51 S

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /064 W
----- 107716

R 181045Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8596
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SECDEF
CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, LA

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF LAO ARMED FORCES AND
INTEGRATION OF IRREGULARS

1. IN A MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK TODAY, I RAISED ONCE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF ACCELERATING THE DEMOBILIZATION OF FAR NOTING THAT TIME WAS RUNNING SHORT AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE MEET VERY SHORTLY TO SEE PRECISELY WHERE THIS MATTER STOOD. I TOLD SISOUK THAT THE VARIOUS REPORTS I HAD RECEIVED WERE CONFUSING AND I RECOMMENDED THAT WE MEET ON THIS SUBJECT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT

BANK MEETING NEXT WEEK. SISOUK AGREED THAT THE FIGURES WERE A BIT CONFUSING AND SAID THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING AFTER HIS RETURN.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THIS CONVERSATION, I TOLD SISOUK THAT ANY REDUCTIONS WHICH COULD BE MADE BELOW THE 60,000-MAN FORCE LEVEL WOULD BE MOST ADVISABLE. I CONFIDED TO HIM THAT I DID NOT YET HAVE THE FUNDS IN HAND TO SUPPORT THESE EXTRA SOLDIERS AND THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS THAT WE HAVE MADE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THERE WERE MANY DIFFICULTIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03100 181514Z

CONNECTED WITH PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE

QUESTION OF LEVEL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WE COULD
PROVIDE UNDER A MAP CONTINUING RESOLUTION WAS UP IN
THE AIR, AND FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS FAR SHOULD
BEAR DOWN AS HARD AS POSSIBLE ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS.

3. I ALSO URGED SISOUK TO REACH A DECISION ON THE
QUESTION OF ADO/ADC FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN SAYABOURY
PROVINCE, POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE ON WHICH
AN EARLY DECISION WAS REQUIRED. SISOUK AGREED AND SAID
THAT HE WOULD BE WORKING INTENSIVELY ON THE FAR FORCE
LEVEL QUESTION AS SOON AS HE RETURNS FROM MALAYSIA.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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